

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently amended) In a system with a plurality of packetized data streams, a method of designating a source of at least one packetized data stream within a multiplexed signal including at least a portion of the at least one packetized data stream, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning ~~a unique designator~~ to the source of the at least one packetized data stream, a first unique designator;

multiplexing at least the portion of the at least one packetized data stream with at least a portion of a second packetized data stream to create the multiplexed signal; and

transmitting the first unique designator in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein ~~transmission of the first~~ unique designator indicates ~~the source of the portion of the multiplexed signal~~ as the source of the at least one packetized data stream.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the packetized data stream is in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the first unique designator comprises the steps of:

creating a first unique designator signal that includes the first unique designator; and

transmitting the first unique designator signal in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein the first unique designator signal provides the first unique designator at the start of the at least one packet of the at least one packetized data stream.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the first unique designator comprises the steps of:

creating a first unique designator signal that includes the first unique designator; and
transmitting the first unique designator signal in conjunction with the multiplexed signal,
wherein the first unique designator signal provides the first unique designator at the start of the at
least one byte of the at least one packetized data stream.

5 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) In a host terminal, a method of multiplexing together packets
from at least two packetized data streams to enable decryption of the packets by an external
conditional access module, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning ~~a unique designator~~ to each of the sources originating ~~packetized data stream of~~
the at least two packetized data streams, associated unique designators;

multiplexing the packets forming portions of the at least two packetized data streams into
a signal;

creating an association for each packet in the signal with the unique designator of the
originating packetized data stream from which each packet originated;

transmitting the signal and the associations of the packets to the external conditional
access module; and

decrypting, in the external conditional access module, the packets in the signal based on
the ~~originating packetized data stream as indicated by~~ the associated unique designators
~~designator~~.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least two packetized
data streams are in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2
(MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous
Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

11. (Currently amended) In a system with a plurality of Moving Picture Experts
Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard transport streams and a host terminal, a method of designating
to an external conditional access module a source of at least one packet of a first MPEG-2

transport stream with a multiplexed signal including the at least one packet of the first MPEG-2 transport stream, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning ~~a unique designator~~ to the source of the first MPEG-2 transport stream, a unique designator;

creating a transport stream source indicator signal that includes the unique designator associated with the at least one packet of the first MPEG-2 transport stream;

multiplexing the at least one packet of the first MPEG-2 transport stream with packets from at least a portion of a second MPEG-2 transport stream to create the multiplexed signal; and

transmitting to the external conditional access module the transport stream source indicator signal in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein transmission of the transport stream source indicator signal, by the unique designator, indicates the source of the at least one packet as the source of the first MPEG-2 transport stream.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including the step of decrypting, in the external conditional access module, the at least one packet based on the source of the first MPEG-2 transport stream.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including the step of transmitting the decrypted at least one packet from the external conditional access module to the host terminal.

14. (Currently amended) ~~A An external conditional access module that can decrypt, based on a unique designator that indicates a source of a data packet, data packets from at least one packetized data stream within an incoming multiplexed signal comprised of data packets from more than one packetized data stream, the external conditional access module comprising:~~
a host terminal interface configured to receive from a host terminal, for receiving the an incoming multiplexed signal comprising at least one packetized data stream that includes a unique source address that indicates a source of a data packet inside the at least one packetized data stream from a host terminal, for transmitting an outgoing multiplexed signal to the host terminal, and for communicating the unique designator for each data packet in both the incoming multiplexed signal and the outgoing multiplexed signal;

a de-multiplexer configured for de-multiplexing the incoming multiplexed signal into data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream based on the unique ~~designator~~ source address associated with each data packet;

a controller configured for determining if decryption is allowed for the data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream and for controlling decryption parameters; and

a ~~least one~~ decryptor configured for decrypting, if decryption is allowed, the data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream using decryption parameters for the at least one packetized data stream. ~~;~~ and

~~a multiplexer for multiplexing the data packets, including those that were decrypted and those for which decryption was not allowed, into the outgoing multiplexed signal.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the data packets and the packetized data stream are in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising an encryptor for encrypting the data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the encryption provides copy protection for the data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream.

18. (Currently amended) A host terminal that provides a multiplexed signal to an external conditional access module, wherein the multiplexed signal includes data packets from at least two packetized data streams, the host terminal comprising:

at least two tuners, each tuner for receiving one of the at least two packetized data streams; and

a multiplexer for combining data packets from the at least two packetized data streams into the multiplexed signal, for assigning a unique source address ~~indicator~~ that indicates which

tuner received the packetized data stream associated with the data packets, for transmitting the multiplexed signal to the external conditional access module, and for communicating the unique source address designator associated with each data packet to the external conditional access module.

19. (Currently amended) The host terminal of claim 18, wherein the data packets and the packetized data stream are in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

20. (Original) The host terminal of claim 18, further comprising a demultiplexer for receiving an output signal from the external conditional access module, for de-multiplexing the output signal, and for providing the at least two packetized data streams as separate packetized data streams.

21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one packetized data stream comprises a first encrypted signal, and wherein the source of the at least one packetized data stream comprises a first tuner.

23. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising decrypting the first encrypted signal subject to a first authorization.

24. (New) A method of decryption comprising:
receiving an RF signal in a first tuner;
assigning to the first tuner, a first address;
producing from the first tuner, a first output signal comprising a first encrypted
signal;

transmitting to a point-of-deployment (POD) module, the first encrypted signal together with the first address;

providing a first authorization information to the POD module; and

identifying the first encrypted signal using the first address;

decrypting the first encrypted signal conditional to a first grant of authorization contained in the first authorization information.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

receiving the RF signal in a second tuner;

assigning to the second tuner, a second address;

producing from the second tuner, a second output signal comprising a second encrypted signal;

transmitting to the POD module, the second encrypted signal together with the second address;

providing a second authorization information to the POD module; and

identifying the second encrypted signal using the second address;

decrypting the second encrypted signal conditional to a second grant of authorization contained in the second authorization information.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

generating a multiplexed signal by multiplexing the first and second encrypted signals together with the first and second addresses;

transmitting the multiplexed signal to the POD module; and

demultiplexing the multiplexed signal in the POD module.

27. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

providing at least one of the first and second authorization information through an out-of-band signal contained in the RF signal.

28. (New) A point-of-deployment (POD) module comprising:
a host terminal interface configured to receive from a host terminal, a multiplexed signal comprising a first encrypted signal together with a first transport stream source indicator signal (TSSIS);
a demultiplexer configured to use the first TSSIS to identify the first encrypted signal in the multiplexed signal;
a controller configured to generate a first decryption instruction upon receiving authorization through a first authorization grant signal; and
a first decryptor configured to receive from the demultiplexer, the first encrypted signal, and decrypt the first encrypted signal conditional to receiving the first decryption instruction.

29. (New) The POD module of claim 28, further comprising:
the host terminal interface configured to receive from the host terminal, the multiplexed signal comprising a second encrypted signal together with a second transport stream source indicator signal (TSSIS);
the demultiplexer configured to use the second TSSIS to identify the second encrypted signal in the multiplexed signal;
the controller configured to generate a second decryption instruction upon receiving authorization through a second authorization grant signal; and
a second decryptor configured to receive from the demultiplexer, the second encrypted signal, and decrypt the second encrypted signal conditional to receiving the second decryption instruction.

30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
assigning to a second tuner that is a source of the second packetized data stream, a second unique designator; and
transmitting the second unique designator in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, whereby the second unique designator provides an identification of the second tuner as the source of the second packetized data stream.